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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/19/08

SPONSOR Ezzell LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 45

SHORT TITLE CYFD Roswell Science Festival Support SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Lucero

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$27.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates, Relates to, Conflicts with, Companion to

Duplicates Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act  
 Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)  
 Public Education Department (PED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 45 appropriates twenty-seven thousand from the general fund to Children, Youth and Families Department to contract with the city of Roswell's recreation department to coordinate an educational science festival for fourth-, fifth-, or sixth-grade and other gifted students in southeastern New Mexico. The festival is to include exhibits, workshops, and hands-on activities and demonstrations from state or national scientific organizations or museums.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of twenty-seven thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of 2009 shall revert to the general fund.

This bill is not part of CYFD's request or the Executive recommendation.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The Roswell science festival for upper elementary students in southeastern New Mexico began seven years ago by a parent organization to highlight engaging activities and exhibits for students. Museums and scientific organizations (such as Johnson Space Center, the Science Place, Bureau of Land Management and the oil industry) send exhibits and activities to enrich the educational opportunities of those students. Six to 700 students attend and many of these students are bused to Roswell. The main purpose of the funding would be to support busing the students and transporting the exhibits.

CYFD received an appropriation last year with a similar purpose. The bill requires CYFD to contract with the City of Roswell to coordinate this educational science festival.

According to the 2005 National Assessment of Educational Progress, 45% of New Mexico's fourth graders scored "below basic" on standardized science tests. New Mexico's average score was eight points lower than the national average. It is generally accepted that educational science festivals support and encourage children's curiosity about and interest in science. As New Mexico is one of the leading states in the nation in both applied and pure research, and home to two federal research laboratories as well as the nation's first spaceport, increasing the number of New Mexican youth who pursue a career in science and technology will bolster New Mexico's position as a technological forerunner.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

CYFD has no performance measures related to scientific education or educational fairs.

This legislation supports Goal 2 of PED's *A Strategic Action Plan for Advancing Math and Science Education in New Mexico 2007-2010*: "Raise public support and awareness of the importance of science and math to New Mexico's economic health and security" and student proficiency in science, as well as other standards and benchmarks for science.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

CYFD would be responsible for developing and implementing a contract or contracts with the City of Roswell's recreation department to disburse the funds as intended. If enacted, CYFD will provide contracts administration with existing resources.

The science festival in Roswell, called Goddard Days, has been a successful event for several years. The festival's administrative infrastructure is in place, as the gifted students parents' association has been the primary organizer in the past, in cooperation with the Roswell Recreation Department.

### **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

None known.

### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

None identified.

### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

The festival is a free hands-on exhibit and science discovery festival, in the Roswell Convention

Center, designed to teach and delight with exhibits covering the topics of Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

In previous years, the International Hall of Fame Center in Alamogordo, New Mexico exhibited a variety of Space Exhibits including but not limited to Space Suit protection, the International Space Station, Mercury Capsule, a Tour of the New Solar System, with topics like: Galileo, Cassini Space Probe, Mars, Stardust Mission and many others. Explora! Science Center and Children's Museum of Albuquerque exhibits emphasized the fun of learning and critical thinking with such apparatuses as Jacob's Ladder, a Tornado Box, Lighting rods and many more.

Many other activities such as an evening of star gazing with the Roswell Astronomy Club, a rocket building workshop and a community Rocket Launch with the Roswell Parks and Recreation Department. Extracurricular academic opportunities provide alternative activities to gang involvement and are more generally associated with prevention of juvenile justice involvement. Science and mathematics skills are increasingly important factors in the national job market and for statewide economic growth.

CYFD states that: involvement in extracurricular academics has been identified as a “resiliency factor” that, in conjunction with other resiliencies, serves to protect youth from other risk factors in their social environment.

As a growing community, Roswell has many students eager to learn about science but not many resources like museums, planetariums, nature centers, or other science-related business that are found in more urban areas of the state like Albuquerque, Las Cruces, or Santa Fe. Goddard Science Days is a community-based festival that seeks to bring the science enrichment resources to students in Roswell and surrounding communities.

#### **ALTERNATIVES**

Appropriate the funding to the Public Education Department, or the Roswell school district, or the local government division of the Department of Finance and Administration.

#### **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

The Roswell city recreation department would have to seek funding from other sources.

#### **POSSIBLE QUESTIONS**

None at this time.

DL/nt